

The Depository Trust Company

IMPORTANT

B#: 0183-06

DATE: September 14, 2006

TO: All Participants

CATEGORY: Executive Notices

FROM: James Koster, Managing Director, Relationship Management

ATTENTION: Managing Partner/Officer/Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Settlement Hotline Established - (212) 855-5800

From time to time participants experience processing problems affecting the handling of transactions in their DTC accounts. In most instances these problems are attributable to some issue – such as a systems failure – internal to the participant; on some occasions these problems relate to issues on DTC’s side, generally some type of programming or systems fault.

If the problem is of such a severity that the participant believes it may need an extension of DTC processing deadlines, it is critical that participants communicate to DTC’s Settlement staff on a timely basis regarding the problem. To simplify the reporting of time sensitive settlement problems to DTC, a new Settlement Hotline has been established – **(212) 855-5800**. The new hotline is monitored by Settlement staff at both of our Operational Centers. DTC requests that calls to the new hotline be limited to time critical settlement inquiries or requests.

Participants should reinforce with their processing staffs the urgency of advising DTC of problems involving substantial financial exposure well before DTC’s processing cutoffs, so that DTC and the participant can implement any appropriate actions on a timely basis.

Questions regarding this Notice may be directed to your Relationship Manager.